

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09235 230916Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 STR-07 STRE-00 EB-08 COME-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ITC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8141

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PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: STRAUSS-USHIBA FOLLOW-UP: BEEF AND CITRUS

1. SUMMARY. MINAG, EPA DIRECTOR GENERAL AND USHIBA MET MAY 19 TO CONSULT ON POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS. ALTHOUGH PRESSED TO COMPROMISE AND CONSIDER GROWTH FACTOR FOR BEEF QUOTA, MINAG REMAINED FIRM ON POSITION THAT STRAUSS/USHIBA COMMUNIQUE WAS MAXIMUM POSSIBLE OFFER. MAF IS STUDYING BEEF IMPORT REGIMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS INDICATE THERE MAY BE CHANCE FOR INCREASE OF BEEF IMPORTS, BUT NOT CITRUS. USHIBA MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT MTN OFFER IN AGRICULTURE JUNE 19 US-EC-JAPAN CABINET LEVEL MEETING BUT ACTUAL OFFER WILL LIKELY COME AT END OF JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN REPORT OF MAY 19 MEETING AMONG MIN AG NAKAGAWA, EPA DIRECTOR GENERAL MIYAZAWA AND MINISTER USHIBA INDICATES MAF REMAINS FIRM IN OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION OF BEEF AND CITRUS IMPORTS BEYOND QUANTITIES AGREED IN JAN. 13 STRAUSS-USHIBA JOINT COMMUNIQUE. MAF SPOKESMEN SAID AFTER MEETING THAT NAKAGAWA SIMPLY EX-

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PLAINED DIFFICULT SITUATION IN JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR BUT NIHON KEIZAI SOURCE SAID FAIRLY PENETRATING DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS OF GROWTH FACTOR FOR BEEF QUOTA. REPORTEDLY EPA AND USHIBA ARE PUSHING FOR ADOPTION OF GROWTH FACTOR "IN PARALLEL" WITH MTN SETTLEMENT.

3. MIYAZAWA AND USHIBA PRESSED NAKAGAWA FOR COMPROMISE "TO PREVENT OUR COUNTRY FROM BEING ISOLATED INTERNATIONALLY." NAKAGAWA IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO INCREASED IMPORTS BUT OTHERS IN MAF BELIEVE "IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE TO REJECT BEEF, ALTHOUGH ORANGES CAN BE DODGED." ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT QUESTION OF EXPANDING IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL BE CARRIED OVER TO JAPAN-US-EC CABINET LEVEL TALKS JUNE 19.

4. MORNING PRESS MAY 23 REPORTS USHIBA IS EXPECTED TO HAVE JAPANESE MTN OFFER IN AGRICULTURE PUT TOGETHER BY END OF JUNE AND THAT IT WILL LIKELY INCLUDE GROWTH FACTOR FOR BEEF QUOTA.

5. AGATT'S WORKING LEVEL SOURCES IN MAF PROVIDE NO ENCOURAGEMENT ABOUT FURTHER STEPS TOWARD LIBERALIZATION EXCEPT THAT THEY ADMIT MAF IS SERIOUSLY STUDYING BEEF IMPORT CONTROL SYSTEMS IN U.S., EC AND ELSEWHERE. MANSFIELD

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